

Senate Transportation Committee NEMT Overview and Discussion

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OVERVIEW: NEMT IN VERMONT

What is NEMT

- The **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)** Program provides rides for Medicaid beneficiaries to and from **Medicaid-covered services** with **Medicaid-enrolled providers**.
- The NEMT program is designed to ensure that Vermonters can **access essential medical services** and utilize their Medicaid insurance benefit.
- The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) **contracts with** the Vermont Public Transportation Association (VPTA) to administer the benefit.
- **VPTA assists with program administration** in the following ways:
 - Determining program eligibility
 - Scheduling rides for members
 - Resolving challenges faced by providers and members
 - And more....

Federal Requirements for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Minimum Federal Requirements



State Medicaid Agencies are required to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries **have access to medically necessary covered services.**



States must use the **least costly mode** that is **appropriate for the physical and emotional condition of the beneficiary.**



The state must ensure the availability of necessary transportation to the **nearest qualified provider** of the services that the beneficiary needs.



States **must comply with the process for screening providers and supplies** for all providers furnishing items or services under the state plan.

Federal funding is contingent upon meeting these basic federal requirements.

OVERVIEW: NEMT IN VERMONT

Program Eligibility

- Members must be **currently enrolled in Vermont Medicaid** to be eligible for NEMT.
- Members must have **no other transportation available** to them.
- Members must be requesting transportation to a **medically necessary service**.
- Members must have a **Medicaid-billable appointment with a provider who is enrolled in the Vermont Medicaid program**.
- Members must be requesting transportation to the **closest available provider**.
- Members will be transported to appointments using the **most appropriate and least costly method of transportation**

Members Served

- DVHA and VPTA coordinated and provided **312, 575 rides in SFY24**
- DVHA and VPTA project to coordinate and provide **300,000 rides for SFY25**
- DVHA and VPTA served **over 6,600 individual members** through the NEMT Program in SFY24

DVHA Service Procurement Model

Current State Overview: Contract



DVHA currently holds **one statewide contract with VPTA** for the NEMT program. The current contract expires on June 30, 2026.



DVHA is required to conduct **an RFP process during the summer and fall of 2025** to procure a vendor.

NEMT Costs

- ✓ The total amount paid to VPTA in **SFY24 for NEMT is \$15.8M**
- ✓ The current estimated **NEMT cost to DVHA for SFY25 is \$15.7M**

Current State Overview: Payment

- ✓ DVHA currently **pays for NEMT using a Per Member Per Week (PMPW) methodology.**
 - ✓ The PMPW is based on the number of **active unique Medicaid beneficiaries who have accessed NEMT** in the past 365 days.
 - ✓ Most expenses are wrapped up into the PMPW but **some rides or related travel expenses are carved out of the PMPW** due to high costs, related travel costs, etc.
- ✓ The current **SFY25 Rate is \$45.80**, Per Member Per Week
 - ✓ The current **PMPW count is 6,419 members**
- ✓ The PMPW is **intended to reflect the average cost** across the entire program. Some Medicaid members will be more frequent users (e.g. daily) while others will be less frequent users (e.g. annually).